

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent display having a filament, a grid electrode and a segment electrode, comprising:

5 a grid driving unit for pulse-driving the grid electrode;

a segment driving unit for pulse-driving the segment electrode;

10 a first controlling unit for rendering adjustable the duty ratio of the output of the grid driving unit;

a second controlling unit for rendering adjustable the duty ratio of the output of the segment driving unit; and

15 a selecting unit for selecting the first controlling unit and/or the second controlling unit.

2. The driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent display according to claim 1, wherein

20 the driving circuit receives data from exterior for selecting the first controlling unit and/or the second controlling unit, and wherein

the selecting unit selects the first controlling unit and/or the second controlling unit based on the externally received data.

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3. The driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent display according to claim 1, wherein

the selecting unit sets the output of the grid driving unit to a given duty ratio when the first controlling unit is not selected, and wherein

the selecting unit sets the output of the segment driving unit to a given duty ratio when the second controlling unit is not selected.

4. The driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent display according to claim 1, wherein

10 the driving circuit is a semiconductor integrated circuit having a filament driving unit for pulse-driving the filament, with a switching device externally connectable for generating a voltage for pulse-driving the filament.

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5. The driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent display according to claim 1, wherein

the driving circuit comprises a switching device for generating a voltage for pulse-driving the filament.

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6. The driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent display according to claim 5, wherein

the driving circuit is a semiconductor integrated circuit, with the switching device being externally connectable.

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7. The driving circuit for a vacuum fluorescent

display according to claim 5, wherein

the driving circuit is a semiconductor integrated circuit having the switching devices integrated therein.